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PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R2001-1/36

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2001-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
ON THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED
STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

(Issued January 17, 2002)

P.O. Ruling R2001-1/27 established preliminary procedures for considering the proposed stipulation and agreement submitted by the Postal Service on December 17, 2001, and revised on December 26, 2001. Dates established in that ruling were modified slightly in P.O. Ruling R2001-1/30. Pursuant to those rulings any participant opposing the proposed stipulation, in whole or in part, was to file a Notice of Opposition by January 16, 2002. Notices of Opposition would then be reviewed to evaluate if there was sufficient time to give full and fair consideration to all contested issues and still provide a timely recommended decision.

One participant, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO (APWU) has provided notice that it opposes the proposed stipulation. APWU states that it "opposes the rate design proposed for First-Class Mail because the proposed discounts exceed cost-avoided."

This ruling constitutes a preliminary finding that it will be possible to consider the proposed settlement, including the issue raised by APWU, and provide a timely recommended decision. The procedural dates established in P.O. Ruling R2001-1/30 remain in effect. Additional procedural dates will be established following the date for the submission of testimony in opposition to the stipulation and agreement (January 30, 2002).

RULING

Evaluation of the proposed stipulation and agreement will continue under the existing preliminary procedural schedule.


George Omas
Presiding Officer